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A Note on *Perileptus jeanneli* JEDLIČKA, *nec* DARLINGTON (Coleoptera, Trechinae)[1)]

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In 1952, JEDLIČKA described a new *Perileptus* from Mesopotamia. His account of the species goes as follows:

> **Perileptus Jeanneli** sp. nov.
>
> Gehört in ≫Sectio I.≪ des System von J e a n n e l, Seitenrand der Flügeldecken und die Spitze schwach angedunkelt, viel schwächer als bei *areolatus* C r e u t z. Von diesem unterscheidet er sich durch die Grösse, den viel schmäleren Kopf und die bedeutend flacheren Augen, schmäleren und etwas längeren Halsschild, schmälere und etwas längere Flügeldecken, letztere an der Basis am schmälsten und erweitern sich geradlinig leicht nach hinten. Die Streifen sind feiner, viel feiner punktiert, die Zwischenräume vollkommen flach. — Länge: 2,9 mm.
>
> 1 Exemplar (Holotypus) aus Mesopotamien in der Sammlung des Ungarischen Naturwissenschaftlichen Museums in Budapest.

Needless to say, the description cited above is too brief and too superficial to show the true affinity of the Mesopotamian species. JEDLIČKA drew it up in comparison with *P. areolatus*, the sole representative of the genus in Europe, but no grounds were given for placing the species in JEANNEL's "Sectio I" (group of *P. areolatus*). Besides, the name "*jeanneli*" was already proposed by DARLINGTON (1934, p. 87) for a Jamaican species. I informed the Czech author of this homonymy in his lifetime and asked him to publish a replacement name. However, he does not appear to have done so before his death. Under this situation, I should have earlier given it a new scientific name, but I was not content merely to replace the preoccupied name unless the systematic position of this problematical species is clarified.

Through the courtesy of Dr. Zoltán KASZAB of the Természettudományi Múzeum, Budapest, and Drs. Zdeněk MLYNÁŘ and Josef JELÍNEK of the Národní Muzeum v Praze, I was recently given opportunities to re-examine three *Perileptus* specimens determined by JEDLIČKA as *P. jeanneli*. One of them is the type-specimen in a fair condition, though the pubescence on its body surface is partly worn out. It is true that this specimen has the characters delineated by JEDLIČKA, but it does not bear any

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direct relationship to *P. areolatus*. It does not belong even to JEANNEL's "Sectio I", but is actually a member of the group of *P. testaceus*, which was treated by the French author (JEANNEL, 1926, pp. 402, 405, 428) as an independent subgenus, *Pyrrhotachys*. This affinity can be clearly proved by the fact that the basal area of its pronotum is perfectly smooth. In the present paper, I am going to give a renewed description of the Mesopotamian species, which is needed for replacement of the insufficient original one.

The remaining two specimens, both from Afghanistan, are radically different from the Mesopotamian species, although they bear identification labels inscribed "*Perileptus jeanneli* Jedl." and "*jeanelli* (sic)" respectively, in JEDLIČKA's handwriting. They do not belong even to the group of *P. testaceus*, in which the Mesopotamian perileptine is included. At the end of this paper, I will record these specimens under the correct name, *P. mesasiaticus*.

The abbreviations used in the following lines are the same as explained in my previous papers (cf. UÉNO, 1976 b, p. 42).

Before going into details, I wish to express my hearty thanks to Drs. Zoltán KASZAB, Zdeněk MLYNÁŘ and Josef JELÍNEK for giving me the privilege of studying the late Ing. JEDLIČKA's specimens under their charge.

Perileptus (s. str.) ***jedlickai*** S. UÉNO, nom. nov.

(Fig. 1)

Perileptus Jeanneli JEDLIČKA, 1952, Ann. hist.-nat. Mus. hung., (S. N.), **2**, p. 79; type area: Mesopotamien.

Nec: *Perileptus* (s. s.) *jeanneli* DARLINGTON, 1934, Psyche, **41**, p. 87; type-locality: Kingston, Jamaica.

Length: 2.75 mm (from apical margin of clypeus to apices of elytra).

Probably closest to *P. testaceus* PUTZEYS (1870, p. 363; JEANNEL, 1926, pp. 409, 429, fig. 206) from Ethiopia and Southwest Arabia,[2)] but the body is obviously narrower and more elongate, the head is less depressed above, having smaller and less prominent eyes, the antennae are longer and slenderer, and the pronotum is evidently contracted posteriad.

Body narrow, elongate, depressed, and covered with short yellowish pubescence. Colour pale reddish brown, relatively dull though the head is shiny; head dark brown except for buccal parts; lateral sides of pronotum and elytra narrowly edged with dark colour, the former darkened in the apical area and the latter weakly so in the lateral and apical areas; palpi, antennae and legs yellowish brown.

Head narrow, much less transverse than in *P. testaceus*, with frontal furrows deep throughout and moderately divergent in front; supraorbital areas and frons

2) BRITTON (1948, p. 98, fig. 2) misidentified this species and described it under the name of *P. (Pyrrhotachys) yemenensis*. Through the generosity of Mr. P. M. HAMMOND, I obtained a pair of the paratypes of *P. yemenensis* BRITTON, and compared them with PUTZEYS' type of *P. testaceus* in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris. They are identical beyond all doubt, and BRITTON's name becomes a junior synonym of PUTZEYS'.

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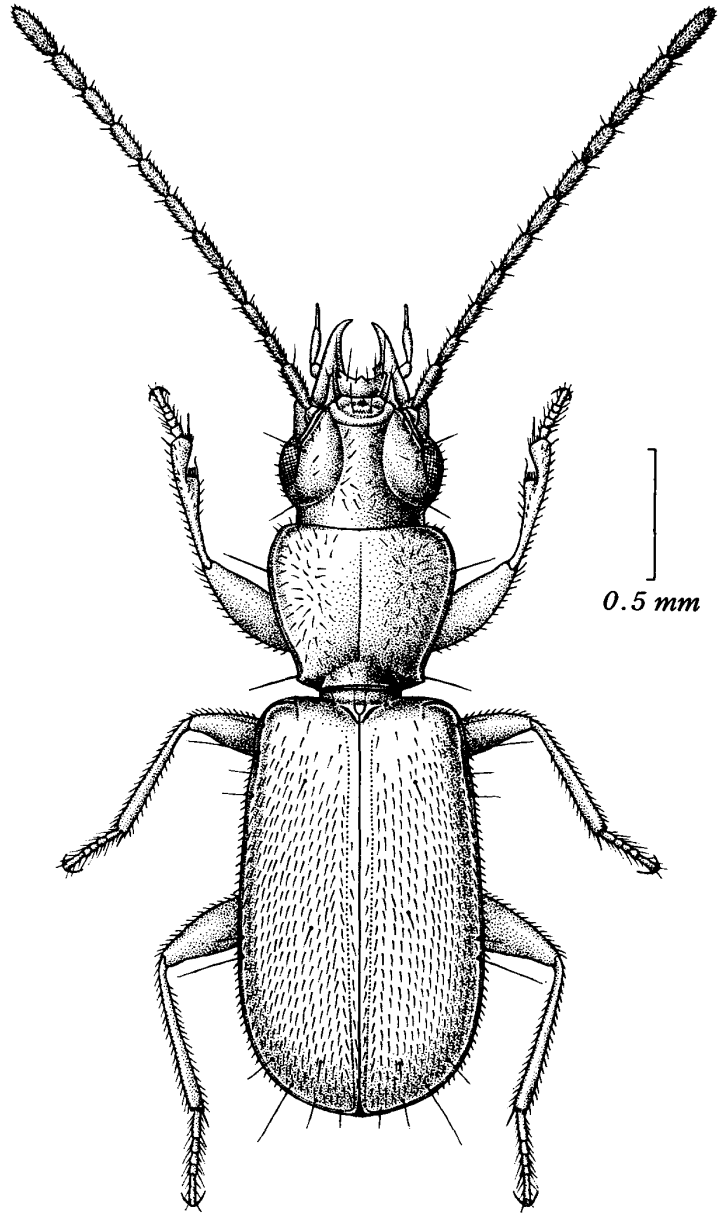

Fig. 1. *Perileptus* (s. str.) *jedlickai* S. UÉNO, nom. nov., ♀ holotype, from Mesopotamia.

gently convex; eyes relatively flat, much less convex than in *P. testaceus*; genae very oblique, about two-sevenths as long as eyes, and only slightly convex; neck constriction sharply marked at the sides; clypeus with a distinct central tubercle, labrum also with a conspicuous tubercle in apical emargination; antennae long and slender, reaching the middle of elytra, AL/EL 1.20, with median segments each more than three times as long as wide, terminal segment the longest.

Pronotum subcordate, wider than head, a little wider than long, widest at five-sevenths from base, and contracted posteriorly; PW/HW 1.14, PW/PL 1.13, PW/PA

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1.42, PW/PB 1.50; surface flat on the disk but gently convex at the sides, being covered with fine piliferous punctures; median line distinct and fairly wide, though reaching neither apex nor base; sides strongly rounded near front angles, which are rounded off, feebly arcuate for the most part, and very slightly sinuate just before hind angles, which are laterally denticulate; apex obviously wider than base and slightly emarginate, PA/PB 1.05; base not pedunculate, nearly straight at middle and obliquely truncated on each side; basal transverse impression continuous though shallow, basal foveae not definable; postangular carinae absent; basal area perfectly smooth.

Elytra elongate and flat, narrow at the basal part, gradually widening posteriad and becoming widest at about five-eighths from base, with the apices widely rounded; EW/PW 1.32, EL/EW 1.75; shoulders nearly square; sides almost straight before the widest part, though very slightly compressed at about basal one-third, then strongly rounded to apices, which form a small re-entrant angle at suture; striae very shallow and almost impunctate, stria 1 entire except for the basal portion, 2–4 partially discernible, others effaced; intervals flat throughout, densely covered with short pubescence; stria 3 with three setiferous dorsal pores at about 1/5, 1/2 and 6/7 from base respectively.

Microsculpture partially degenerated on head, though consisting of polygonal meshes; that of pronotum and elytra isodiametric throughout and clearly impressed.

Legs short and stout, with thick femora, though the tarsi are somewhat thinner than in *P. testaceus*.

Male unknown.

Type depository. Természettudományi Múzeum, Budapest.

Specimen examined. 1 ♀ (holotype), Mesopotamia (from the REITTER collection).

Range. Mesopotamia; no further data available.

Notes. This is a very distinctive species, readily distinguished from the other members of the species-group by its narrow body form, flat eyes and basally contracted prothorax. It seems to be confined in the drainage areas of the Tigris and the Euphrates, so that its distributional range is widely isolated by the Arabian deserts from that of its closest ally, *P. testaceus*. I have never come across other examples of this perileptine in any museums of Europe and North America, and the type appears unique at present.

Perileptus (s. str.) ***mesasiaticus*** S. UÉNO, 1976

Perileptus (s. str.) *mesasiaticus* S. UÉNO, 1976, Annot. zool. Japon., **49**, p. 68, figs. 1–2; type-locality: Vicinity of Sarygor in Tadzhikistan.

Perileptus (s. str.) *japonicus*: JEANNEL, 1935, Rev. fr. Ent., **1**, p. 273 [*nec* H. W. BATES, 1873].

Specimens examined. 1 ♀, Baschgaltal, 1,200 m alt., Nuristan, Afghanistan, 15–IV–1953, J. KLAPPERICH leg. (Mus. Budapest); 1 ♂, Kharzar, Afghanistan (Mus. Prague).

Notes. It is incredible that JEDLIČKA should identify the two Afghan specimens

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cited above with his own *P. jeanneli*. In reality, they are conspecific with the perileptine recently described from Soviet Central Asia. The two species, *jeanneli* (=*jedlickai*) and *mesasiaticus*, belong to two different species-groups, which are not directly related to each other.

The Baschgaltal specimen (♀) of *P. mesasiaticus* is larger than any of the type-series, being 2.85 mm in the length of body, but is identical with the latter in all the other respect. The standard ratios of body parts in the two Afghan specimens are as follows: AL/EL 1.01 in ♂, 0.85 in ♀, PW/HW 1.08–1.10, PW/PL 1.18–1.28, PW/PA 1.39, PW/PB 1.47–1.52, PA/PB 1.05–1.09, EW/PW 1.35–1.37, EL/EW 1.66–1.68.

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